

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

**EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION  
RELATED TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, to provide relief for disaster damages, losses, and suffering, and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people, I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, hereby determine, designate, and proclaim as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Hawaii Food Bank currently estimates that since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity in Hawai'i has grown by more than 50% - representing the fourth highest percentage increase nationwide, with nearly a quarter of a million Hawai'i residents struggling with hunger, including 1 in 4 keiki;

**WHEREAS**, since March 2020, there has been a 36% increase in the number of families receiving food assistance through the Department of Human Services (DHS) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);

**WHEREAS**, the emergency supplemental payments are significant; for the month of February 2020, 92,985 families (173,175 individuals) received additional benefits of \$18,288,612 in federally authorized SNAP emergency allotments to help address food needs during the state and national public health emergency periods;

**WHEREAS**, these individuals continue to find themselves suffering from food insecurity as they struggle to provide food for themselves and their families due to the effects of the pandemic coupled with the recent jump in the cost of daily living – groceries, child care, transportation, and utility costs as record inflation rates climb along with the unprecedented hike in gas prices;

**WHEREAS**, the termination of the general state emergency period related to the pandemic would result in SNAP recipients no longer being able to receive the additional federal SNAP emergency allotments that remain available during the national public health emergency period;

**WHEREAS**, without the additional federal SNAP emergency allotments, families suffering from food insecurity may not be able to adequately feed their families;

**WHEREAS**, the imminent danger or threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the families of Hawai'i caused by food insecurity constitutes an emergency under section 127A-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, hereby determine that an emergency or disaster contemplated by section 127A-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, has occurred in the State of Hawai'i, and do hereby declare the existence of a state of emergency for the limited purpose of administering the available federal program that provides SNAP emergency allotment relief to alleviate food insecurity for individuals and families of the State during the national public health emergency.

**I FURTHER DECLARE** that the disaster emergency relief period shall commence March 25, 2022, and continue through May 24, 2022, or until terminated by a separate proclamation, or until the national public health emergency period related to the COVID-19 pandemic terminates, whichever shall occur first.

Done at the State Capitol, this 24<sup>th</sup>  
day of March 2022.

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor of Hawai'i

APPROVED:



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Holly T. Shikada  
Attorney General  
State of Hawai'i